

# Overview of Child Fatality Data

## January 2011 to September 2014

Risk Management Division  
Department of Children and Family Services  
November 17, 2014

---

# Data Dictionary

Term	Definition
<b>Accidental Death</b>	Result from an unplanned and unforeseeable sequence of events.
<b><i>Butterfield vs. Lightbourne</i></b>	On December 28, 2012, the Court in <i>Butterfield v. Lightbourne</i> invalidated the State regulation criteria requiring that a child fatality be the result of abuse/neglect inflicted by a parent or guardian in order to come within subdivision (c). As a result of the Court's ruling, it is no longer necessary for the abuse to be inflicted by a parent or guardian and may include any person that inflicted abuse leading to a child's death excluding mutual affray between two minors.
<b>Captured Trend</b>	Based on a review of fatality circumstances as reported to DCFS via autopsy reports, fatality referrals, DCFS investigations, and law enforcement findings.
<b>Family History</b>	Sibling of the child had an open case or referral with DCFS at time of child's death or a closed case or referral prior to the child's date of death. Parent of the child had an open case or referral with DCFS at time of child's death or a closed case or referral prior to the child's date of death.
<b>Foster Family Agency Certified Home</b>	Home that is certified by a Foster Family Agency, a private agency. When a family is certified by a foster family agency (FFA), a social worker from that agency visits their home on a regular basis. Some foster family agencies are also licensed adoption agencies. In some cases a foster family agency social worker may also conduct the adoption home study.
<b>Foster Family Home</b>	Home in which 24-hour non-medical care and supervision are provided in a family setting in the licensee's family residence for not more than six foster children.
<b>Group Home</b>	A facility that provides 24-hour non-medical care and supervision to children. A facility that provides services to a specific client group and maintains a structured environment, with such services provided at least in part by staff employed by the licensee.
<b>Guardian Home</b>	Home of guardian who was empowered by a court to be the guardian of a minor.

# Data Dictionary

Term	Definition
<b>Homicide Death</b>	The killing of one human being by another human being.
<b>ICAN</b>	Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect. Their findings are based on final modes determined by the Coroner. ICAN data includes those deaths that are completed by LA County Coroner, and they do not include mode of deaths classified as natural and deaths that do not become Coroner's Cases.
<b>In-Home</b>	Home of Parent
<b>Mode of Death</b>	Is the root cause of the sequence of events that lead to death classified by the Coroner.
<b>Natural Death</b>	Are the workings of "Mother Nature" in that death results from a natural disease process.
<b>Non-Foster Care</b>	Hospitals, medical facilities, and psychiatric facilities that provide medical or mental services on an emergency basis.
<b>Non-Relative Extended Family Member (NREFM) Home</b>	Home of any adult caregiver who has established familial or mentoring relationship with the child. The parties may include relatives of the child, teachers, medical professionals, clergy, and neighbors and family friends.
<b>Open Case</b>	Can include those cases that were open prior to the child's death and may include cases that were opened due to an incident/injury that lead to the child's death.
<b>Open Referral</b>	Can include all open referrals regardless of the number of days open and may include referrals that were opened due to an incident/injury that lead to the child's death.
<b>Prior Case</b>	There is no specified time frame established for including a child with a closed case, (e.g., a child with a closed referral seven years ago is still included in this category).
<b>Prior Referral</b>	There is no specified time frame established for including a child with a closed referral (e.g., a child with a closed referral seven years ago is still included in this category).

# Data Dictionary

Term	Definition
<b>Relative Home</b>	Home of a person connected to another by blood or marriage. It includes parent, step-parent, son, daughter, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, first cousin or any such person denoted by the prefix “grand” or “great” or the spouse of any of the persons specified in this definition, even after the marriage has been terminated by death or dissolution.
<b>SB39 (Confirmed abuse and/or neglect)</b>	Senate Bill 39 (SB39) became effective on January 1, 2008, and applies to child deaths that occurred on that date, or thereafter. SB39 permits a member of the public to request certain information and records regarding child fatalities where there is a reasonable suspicion that the child’s death was caused by abuse or neglect, or where a determination is made that abuse or neglect lead to a child’s death. In August 2010, the Board adopted the recommendations of the Office of Independent Review, which called for SB39 determinations to be made in favor of disclosure.
<b>SB39 Sub-division A</b>	Final determination concluded that the fatality met subdivision A criteria (reasonable suspicion that the fatality was caused by abuse and/or neglect).
<b>SB39 Sub-division C</b>	Final determination concluded that the fatality met both subdivision A & C criteria (the fatality is confirmed to be caused by abuse and/or neglect) by either law enforcement, Coroner, or DCFS.
<b>Small Family Home</b>	Any residential facility in the licensee’s family residence providing 24 hour care for six or fewer children with a mental disorder, developmental disability, or physical handicap and who require special care and supervision as a result of such disabilities.
<b>Suicide Death</b>	The act or instance of taking one own’s life voluntarily and intentionally.
<b>Undetermined Death</b>	Occur when the Coroner cannot with medical certainty determine the mode of death.

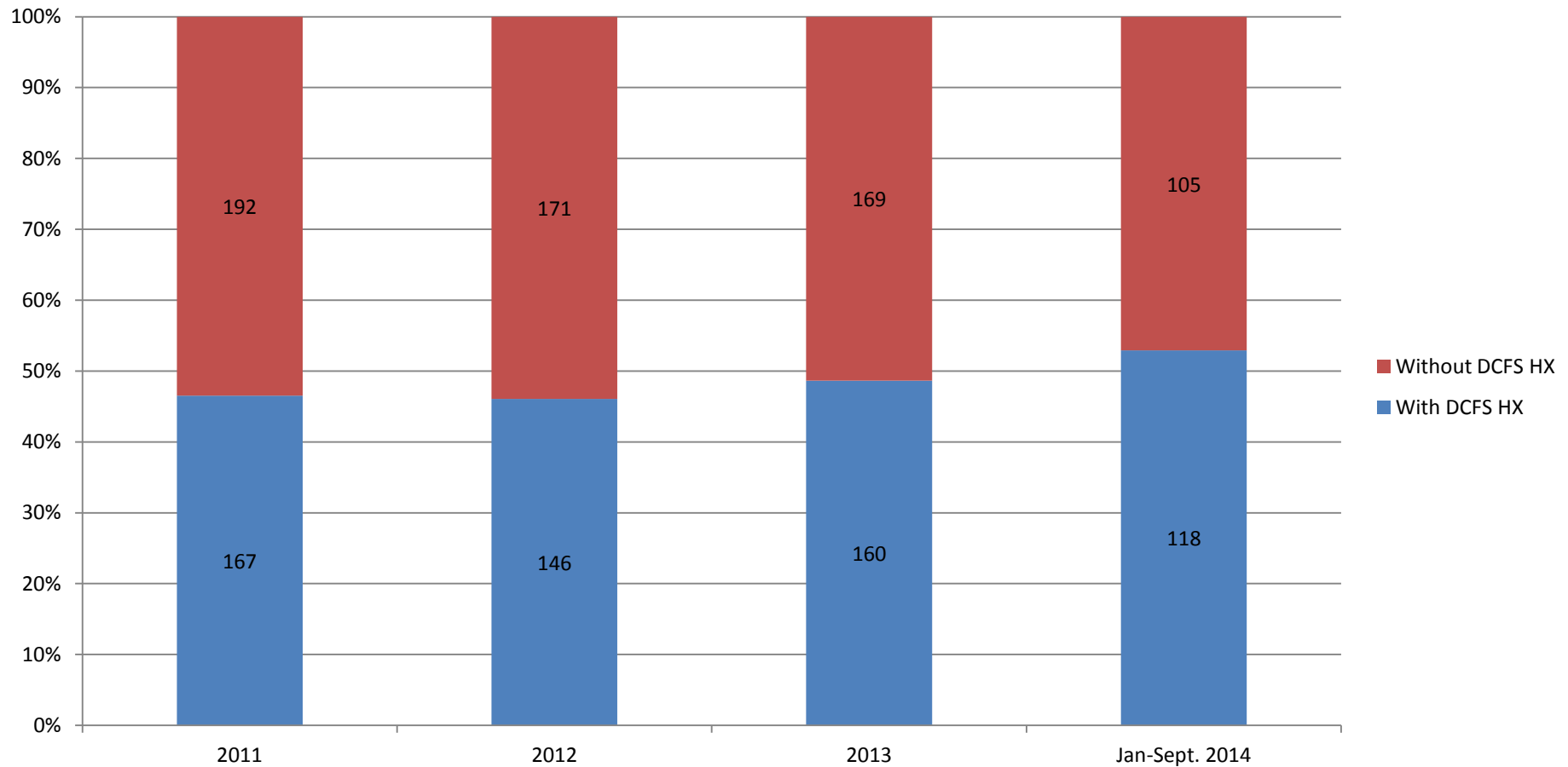
# 2011 to 2014 (Sept): Data Elements & Data Source

Data Elements Requested	Data Source
1.Total # of child deaths with and without DCFS History	CIFT*
2.Age of Child	CWS/CMS
3.Gender	CWS/CMS
4.Race or Ethnicity	CWS/CMS
5.SB39 Categorization	CIFT*
6.Area of Residence	CWS/CMS
7.Incident Location	CIFT*
8.Captured Trends: Death Circumstances	CIFT*
9.Cause of Death	CIFT*
10.Mode of Death	CIFT*
11.Alleged Perpetrator in Homicides	CIFT*
12.DCFS Status at Time of Death	CIFT*
13.Placement at Time of Death (Open Cases)	CWS/CMS
14.Were parents minors at child's birth	CWS/CMS
15.Were parents minors at child's death	CWS/CMS
16.Did parents have a DCFS referral as a minor	CIFT*
17.Family with at least one open case or referral 10 months prior to deceased child's date of birth	CWS/CMS
18.Minor parents with open case at deceased child's date of death	CWS/CMS
19. National Data on child maltreatment deaths	Maltreatment 2012, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Accessed from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf</a>
20. California Data on child maltreatment deaths	California Child Fatality and Near Fatality Annual Report Calendar Year 2011 The California Department of Social Services
21. Racial demographics of Los Angeles County	United States Census accessed from <a href="http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html">http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06000.html</a>

\*The Critical Incident and Fatality Tracking (CIFT) is a web-based system that was designed to capture all of the pertinent data elements that are not currently being captured in the CWS/CMS database. The system tracks and maintains comprehensive and pertinent data elements needed to report child fatalities, critical incidents, near fatalities and S39 related deaths that resulted from child abuse and/or neglect. B

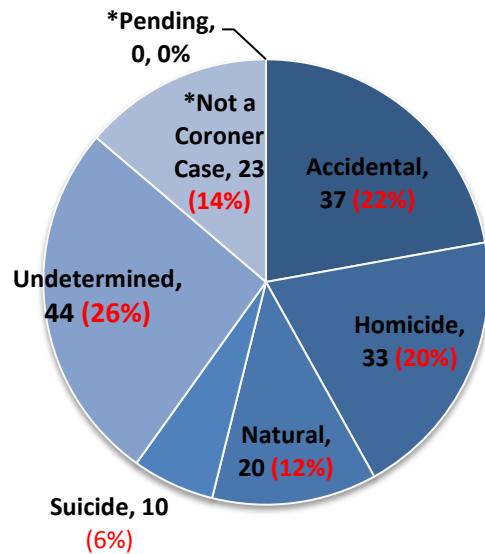
# Total Fatalities Reported to DCFS

	2011	2012	2013	Jan-Sept. 2014
With DCFS HX	167 (47%)	146 (46%)	160 (49%)	118 (53%)
Without DCFS HX	192 (53%)	171 (54%)	169 (51%)	105 (47%)
TOTAL	359	317	329	223

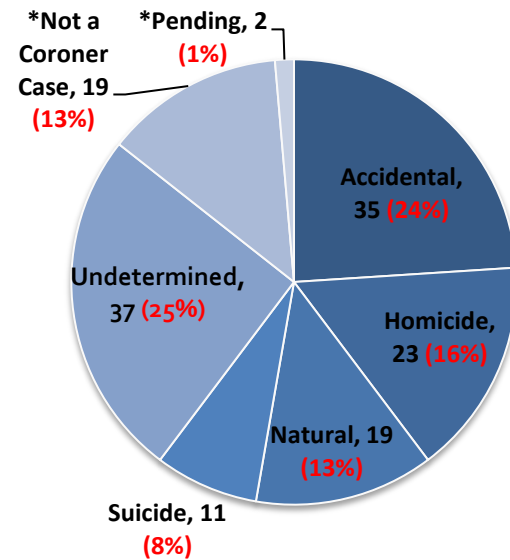


# By Mode of Death

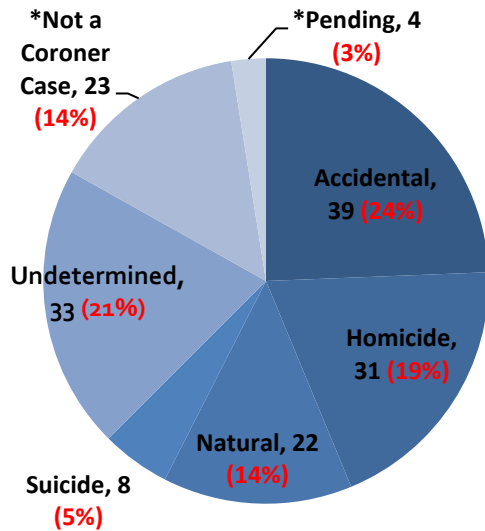
**2011**  
**Σ = 167**



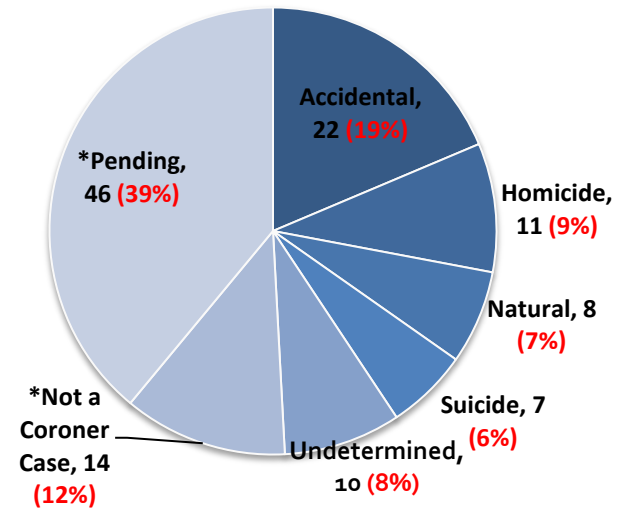
**2012**  
**Σ = 146**



**2013**  
**Σ = 160**



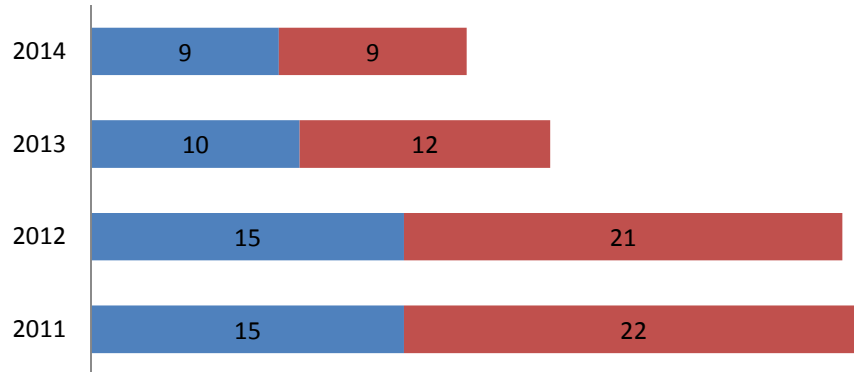
**2014**  
**Σ = 118**



# Co-Sleeping & Unsafe Sleeping Environment Captured Trend

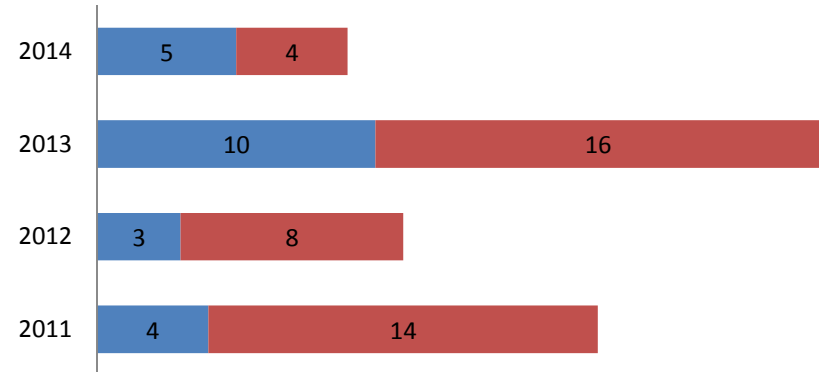
## Co-Sleeping

■ With Hx ■ Without Hx



## Unsafe Sleeping Environment

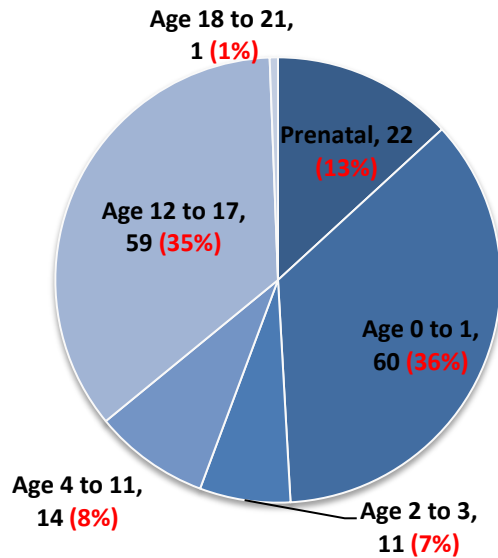
■ With Hx ■ Without Hx



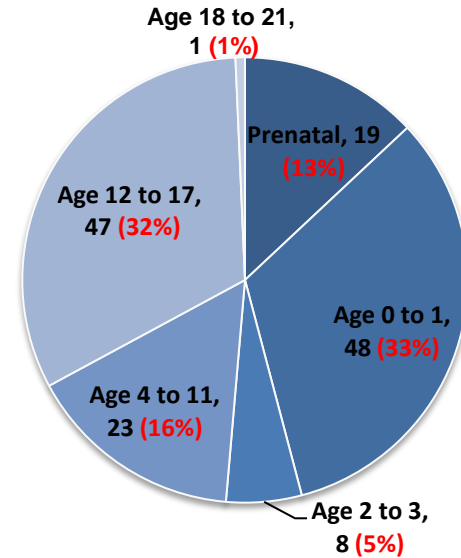


# Age at Date of Death

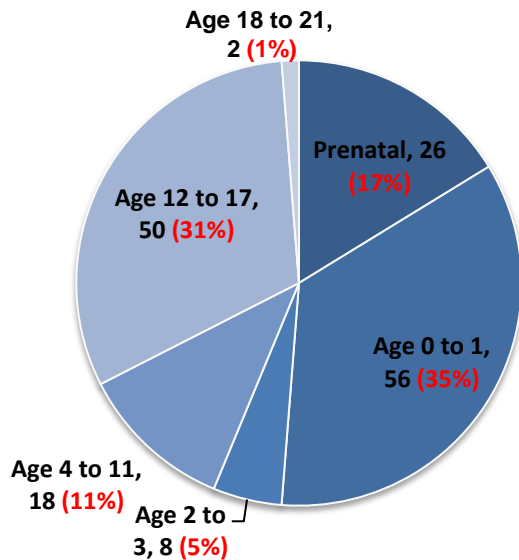
**2011**  
 **$\Sigma = 167$**



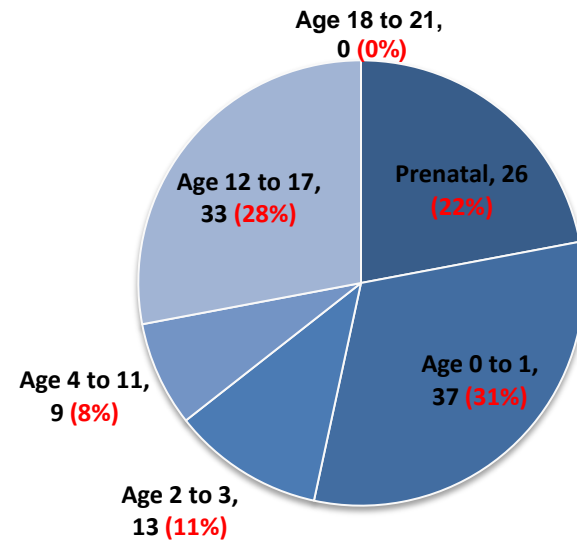
**2012**  
 **$\Sigma = 146$**



**2013**  
 **$\Sigma = 160$**

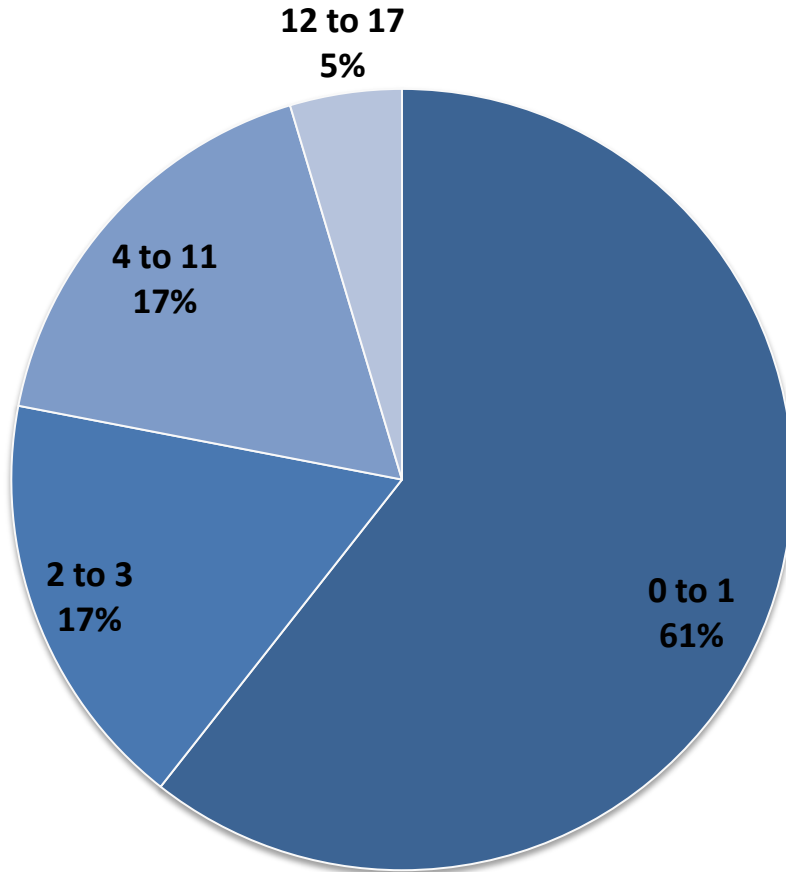


**2014**  
 **$\Sigma = 118$**

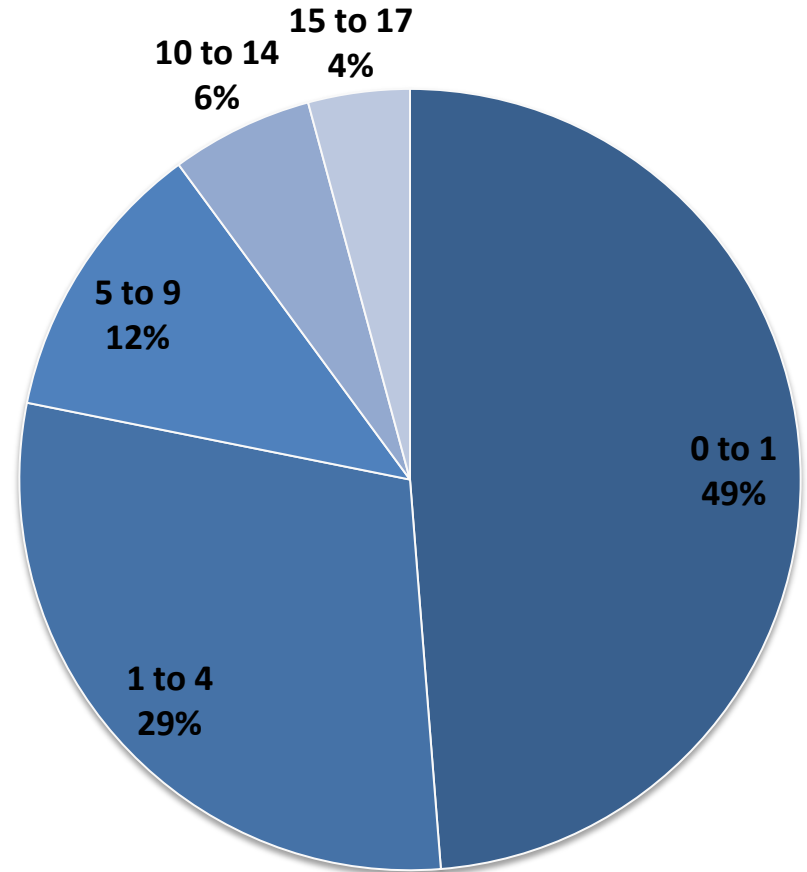


# National vs. California Data (Age)

National data on child fatalities due to maltreatment by age (44 reporting states)

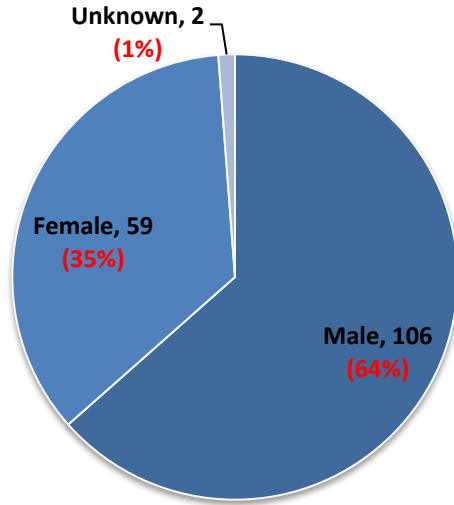


California data on child fatalities due to maltreatment by age

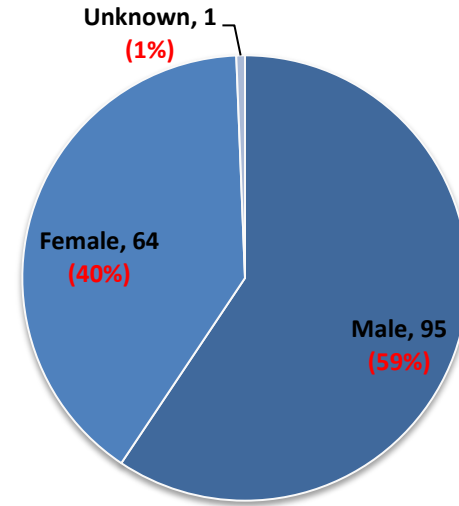


# Gender

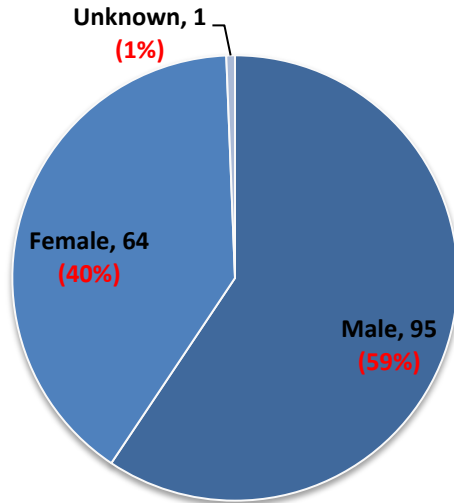
**2011**  
 **$\Sigma = 167$**



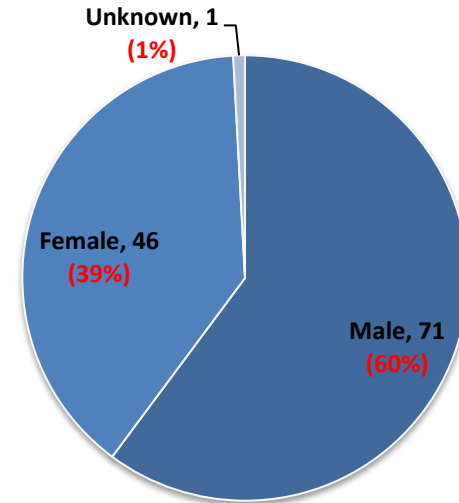
**2012**  
 **$\Sigma = 146$**



**2013**  
 **$\Sigma = 160$**



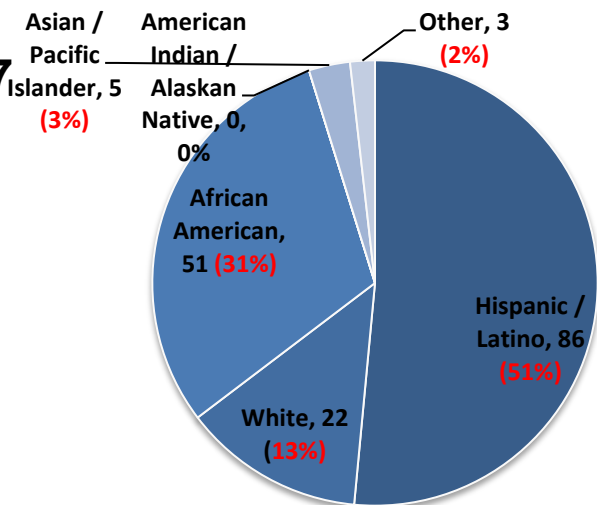
**2014**  
 **$\Sigma = 118$**



# Ethnicity

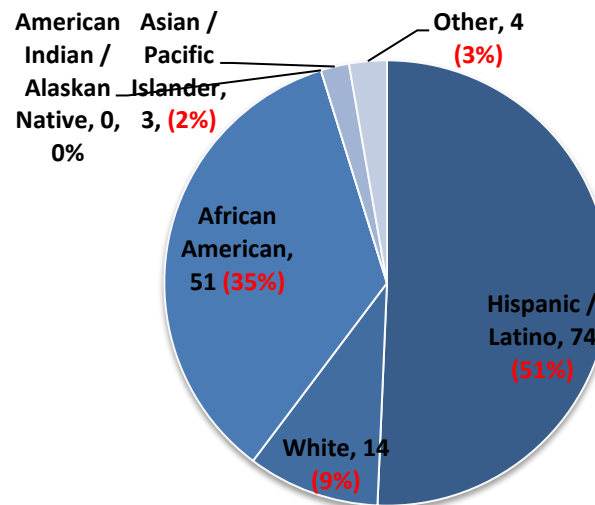
**2011**

**$\Sigma = 167$**



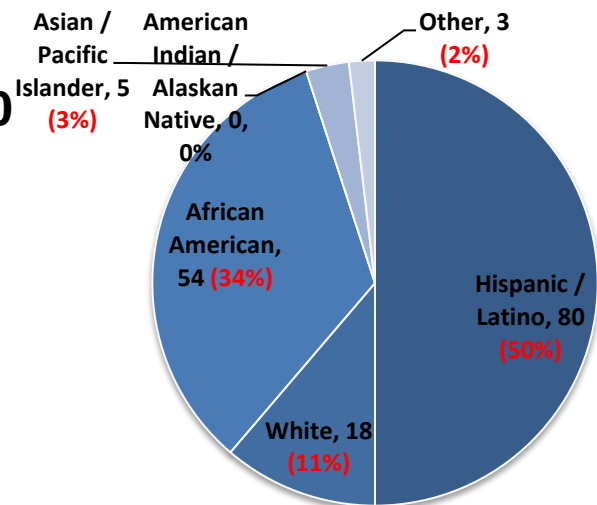
**2012**

**$\Sigma = 146$**



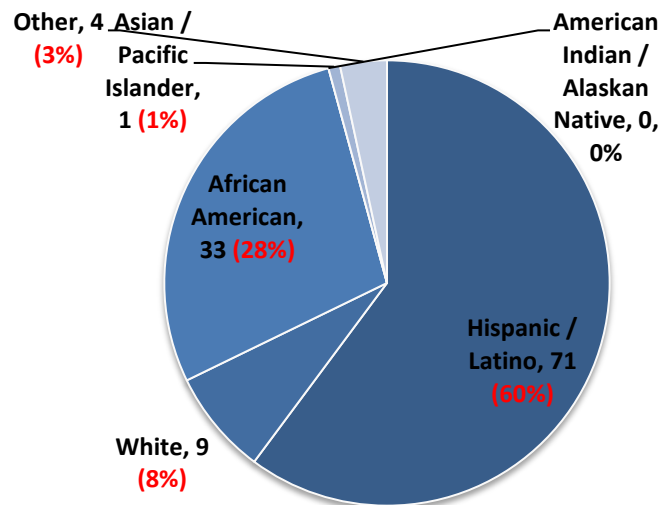
**2013**

**$\Sigma = 160$**

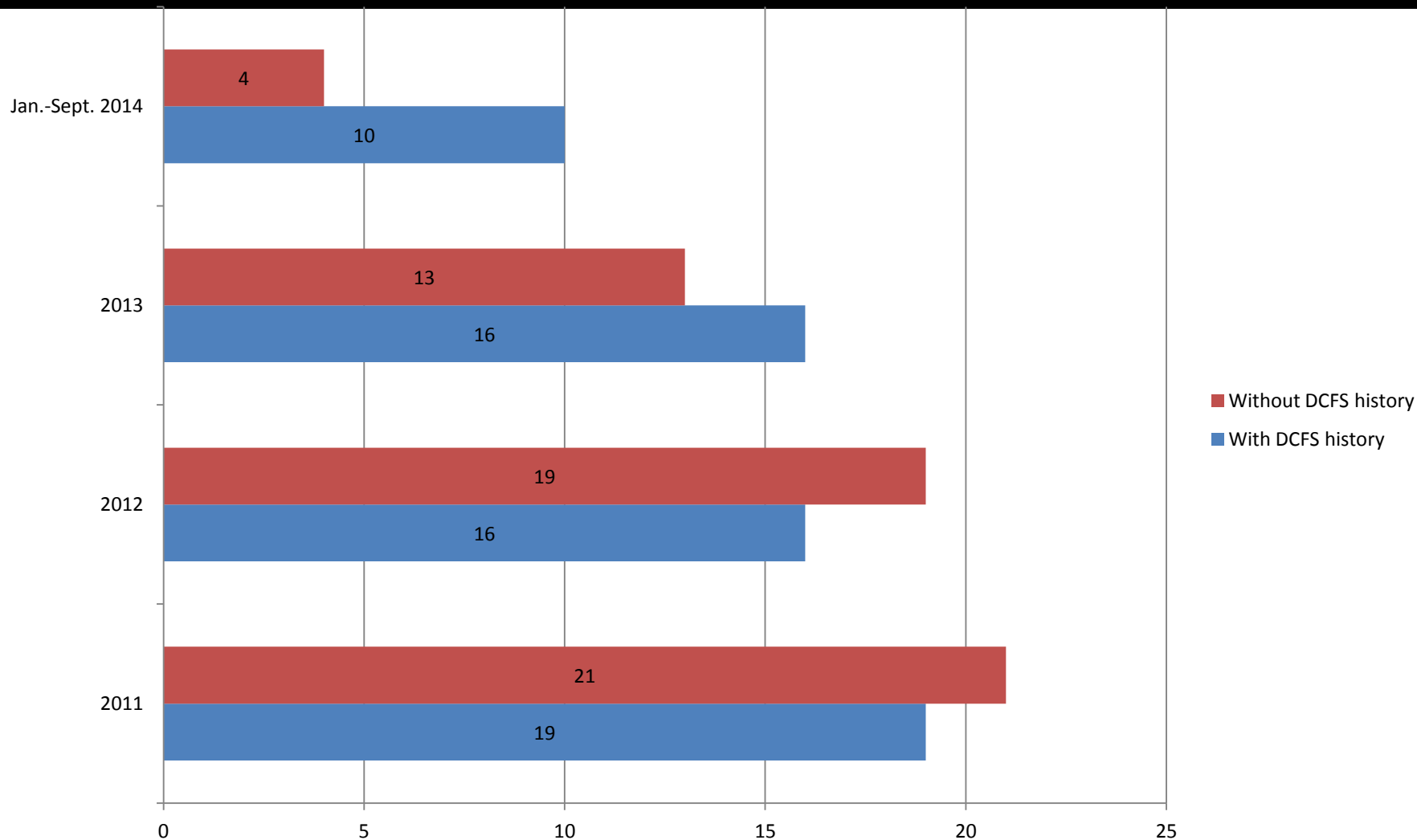


**2014**

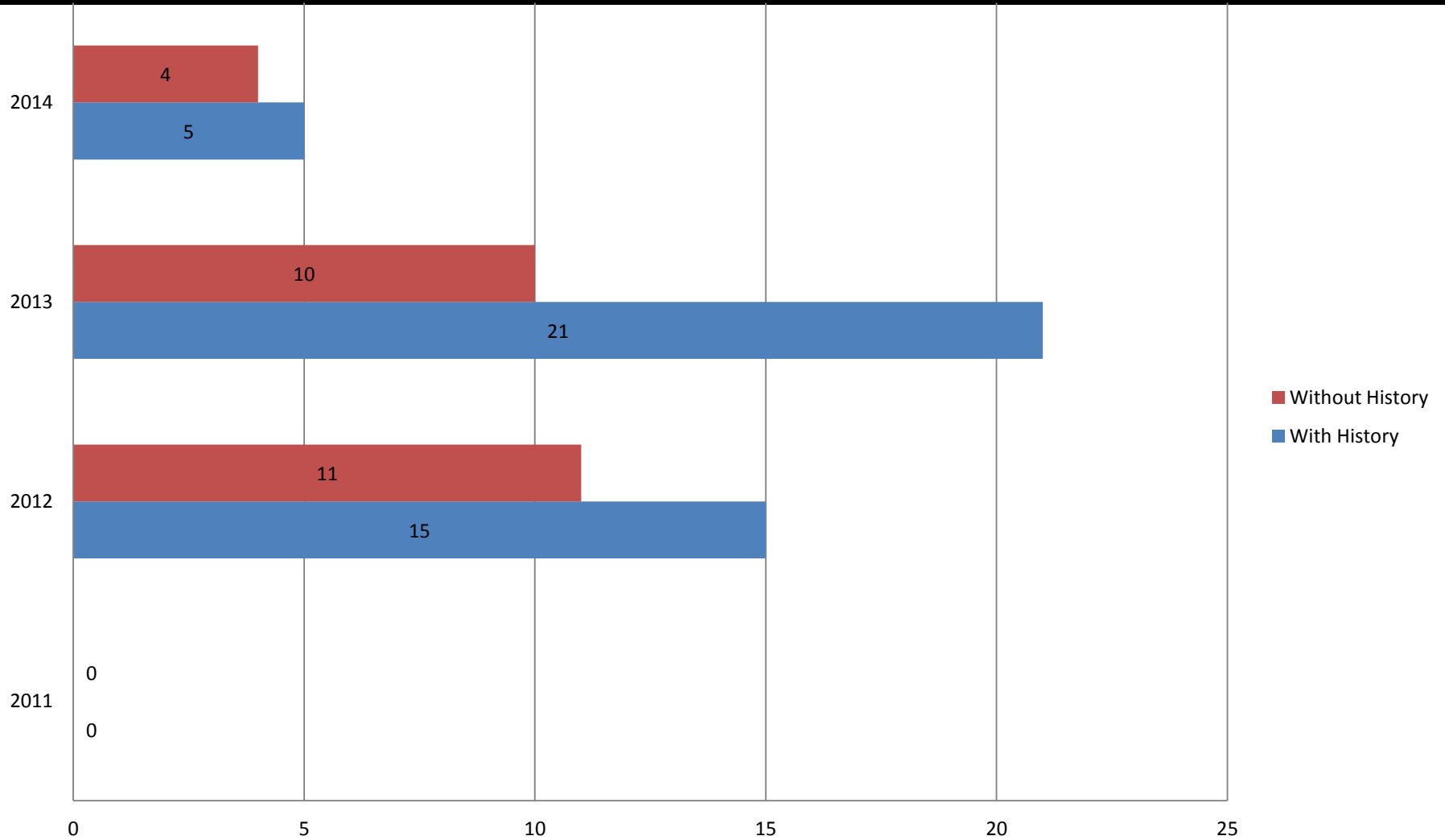
**$\Sigma = 118$**



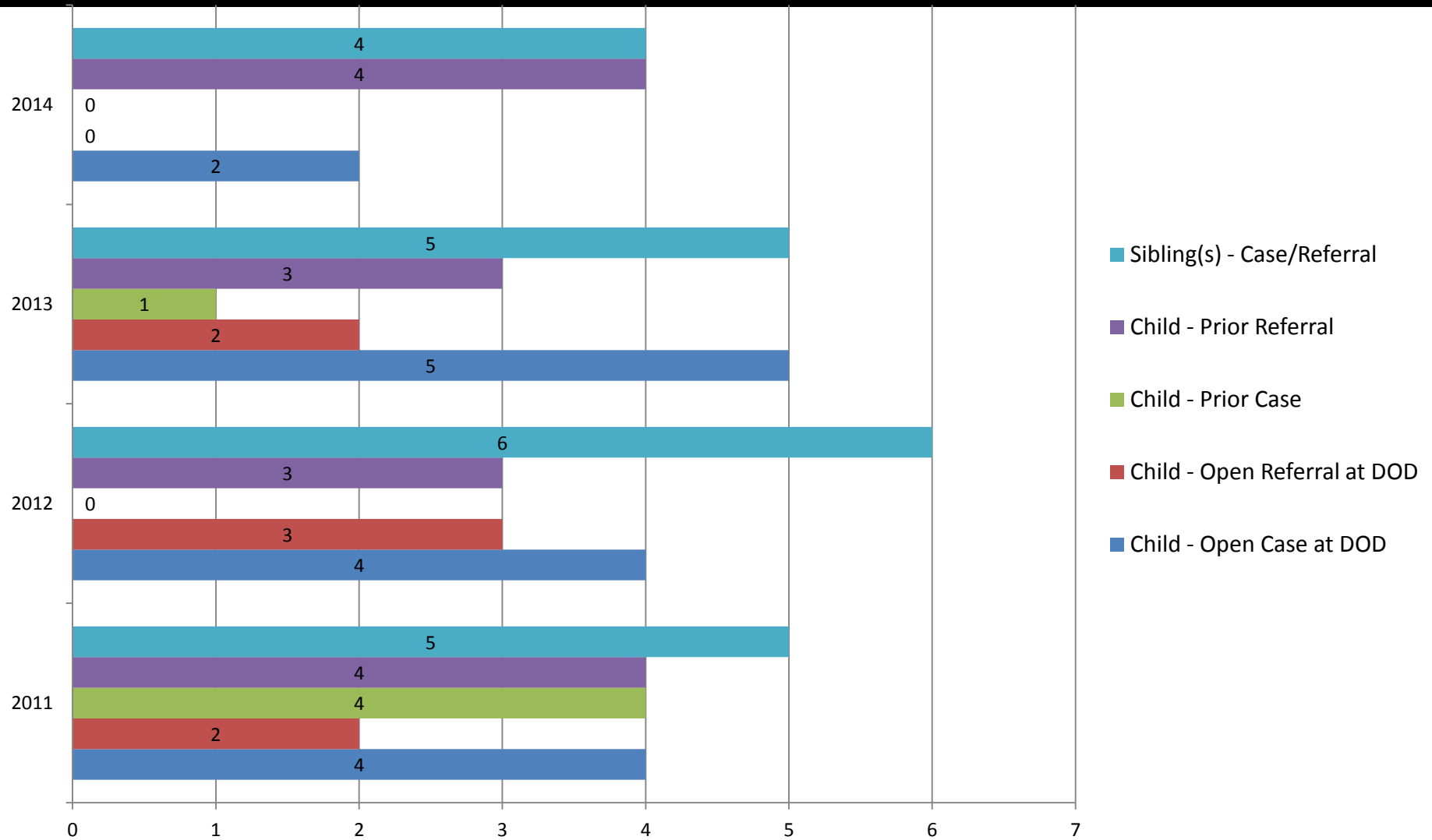
# Fatalities by Confirmed Child Abuse and/or Neglect



# Butterfield Fatalities Cases



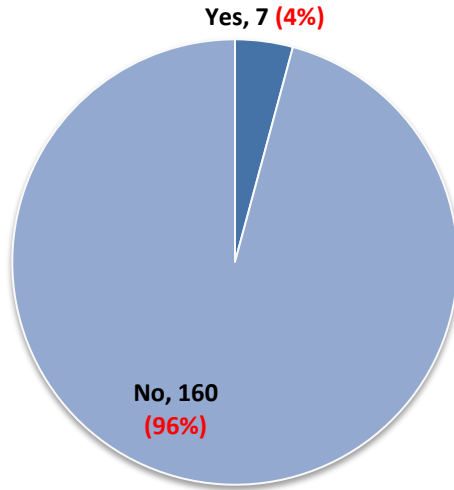
# Fatalities w/ Confirmed Abuse and/or Neglect and DCFS Status



# Minor Parent at Birth of Deceased Child

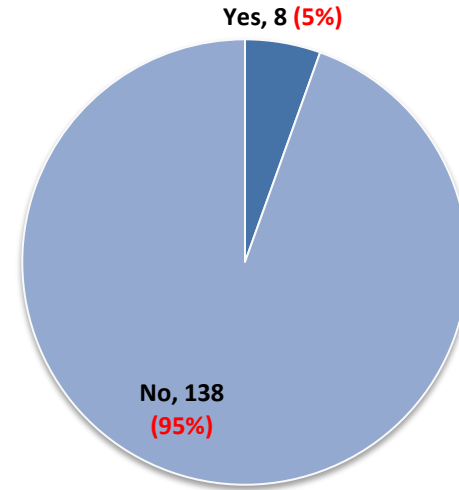
2011

$\Sigma = 167$



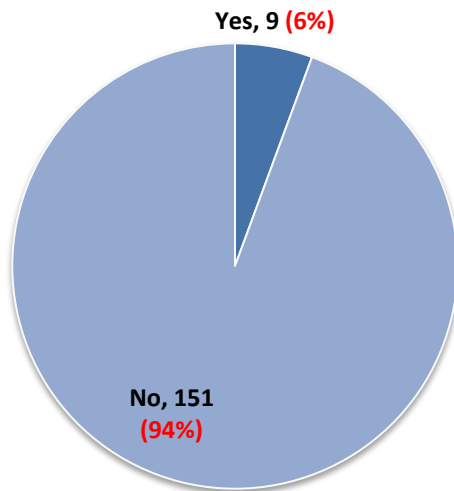
2012

$\Sigma = 146$



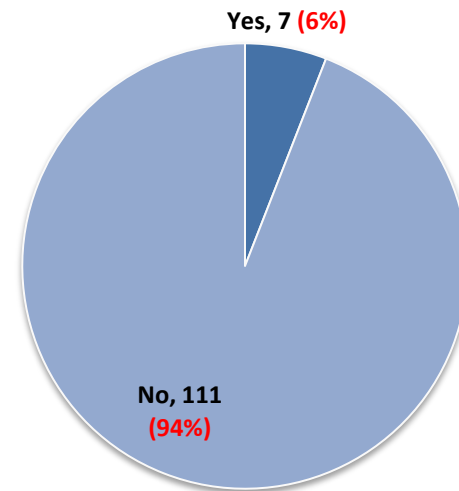
2013

$\Sigma = 160$



2014

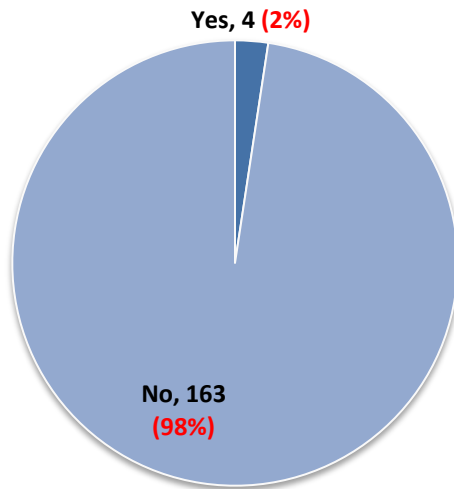
$\Sigma = 118$



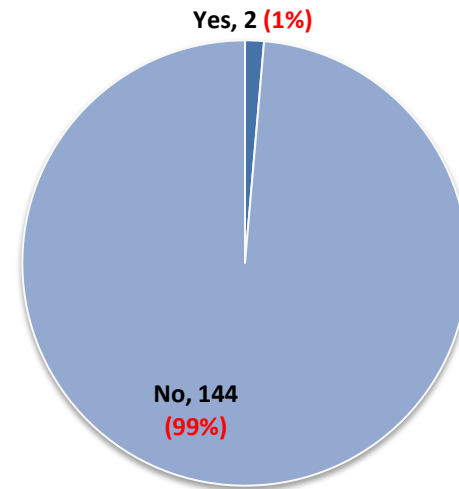


# Minor Parent at Death of Deceased Child

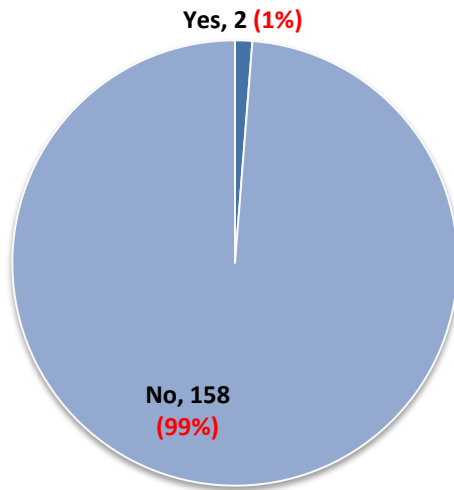
**2011**  
 **$\Sigma = 167$**



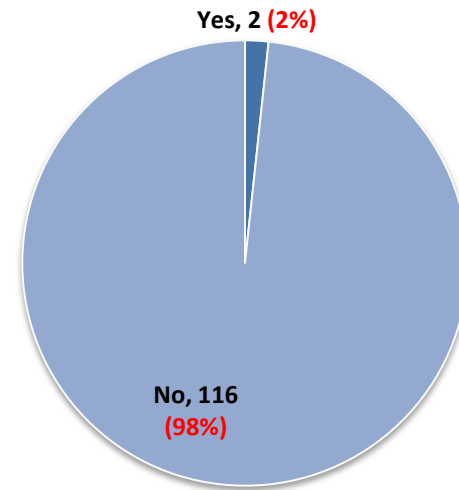
**2012**  
 **$\Sigma = 146$**



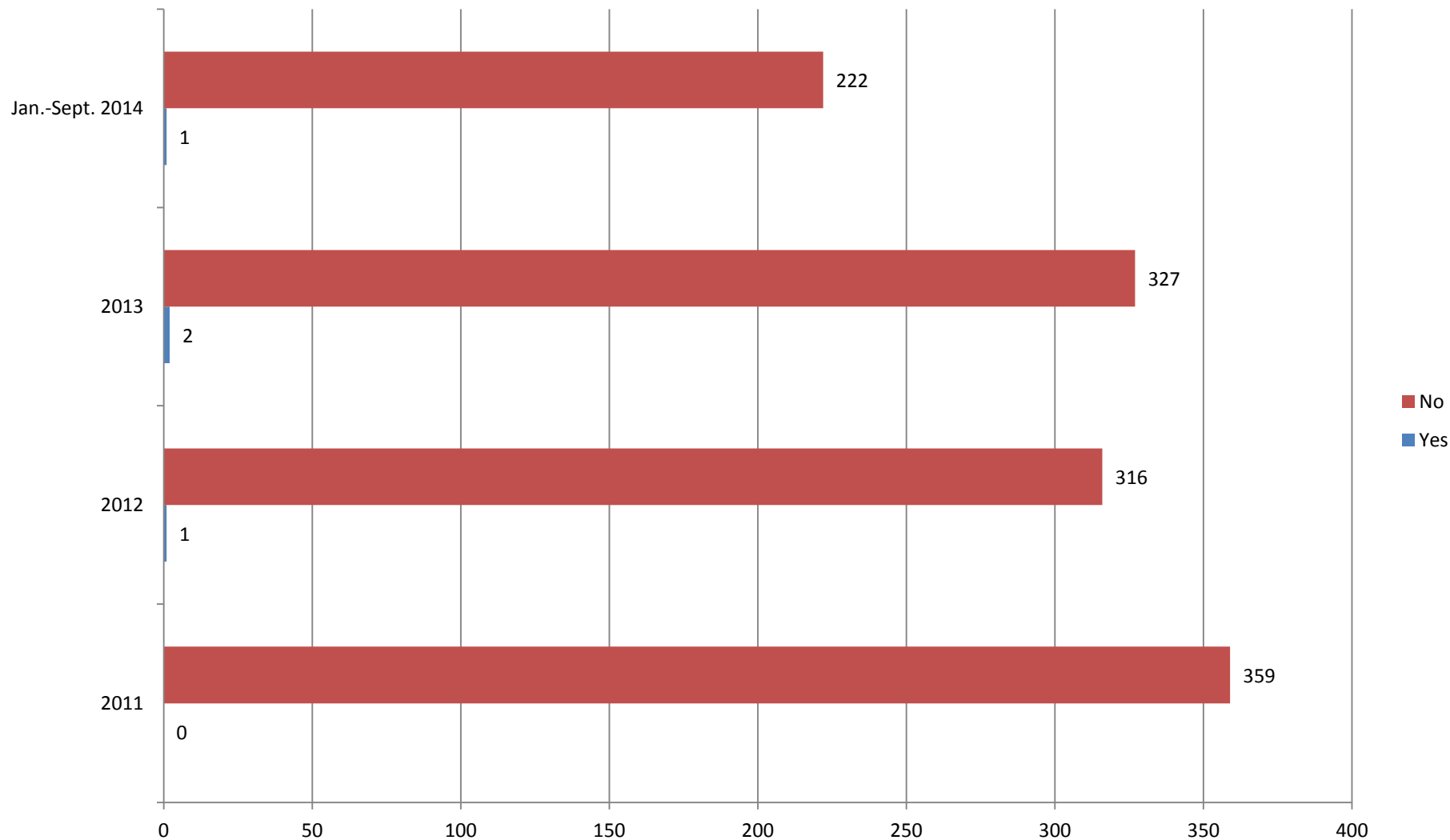
**2013**  
 **$\Sigma = 160$**



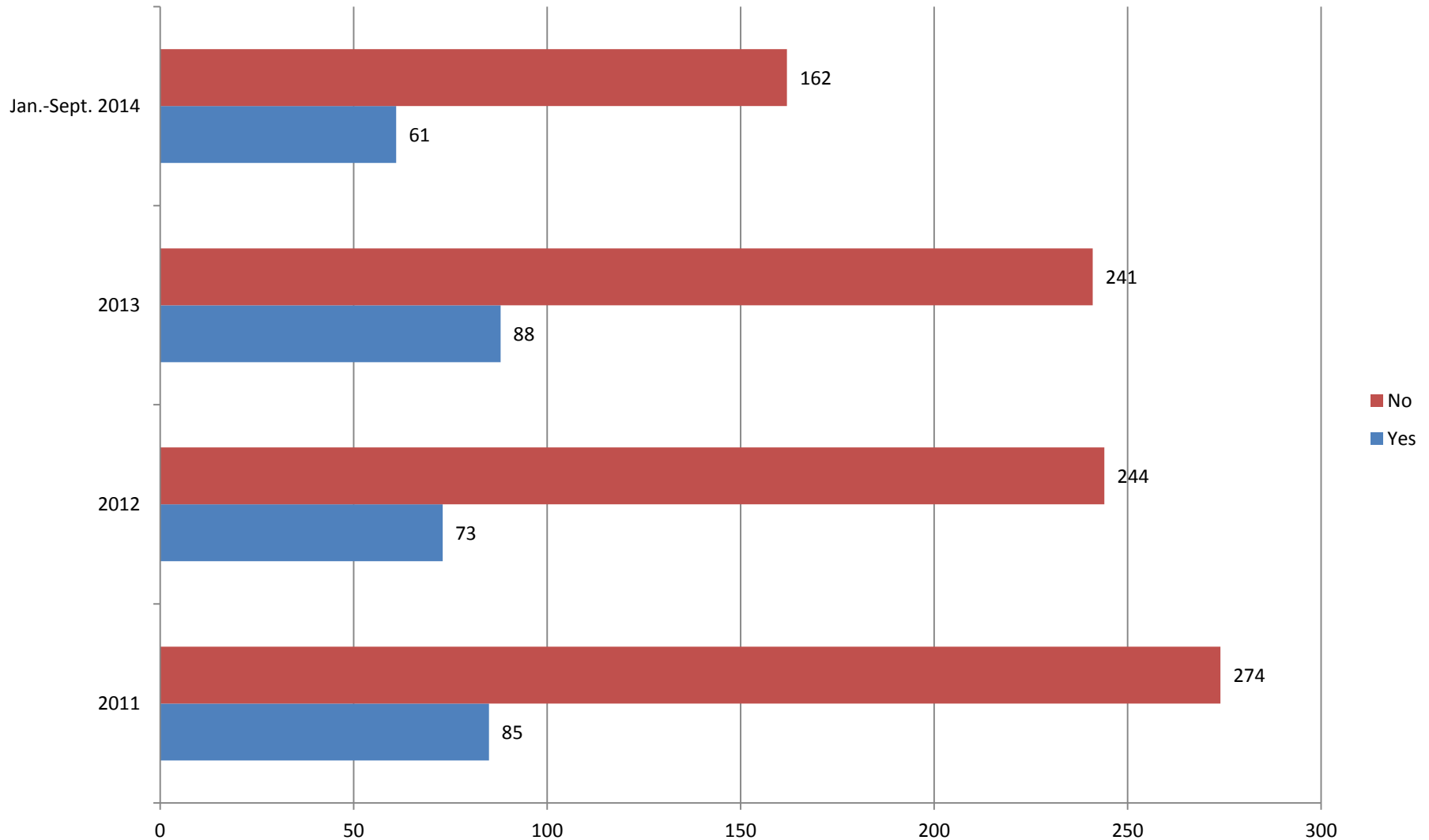
**2014**  
 **$\Sigma = 118$**



# Minor Parent with an Open Case at Date of Death



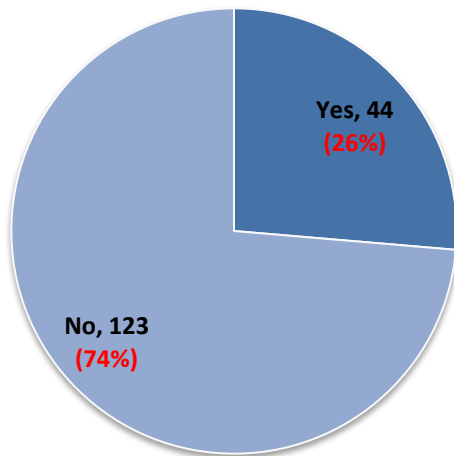
# Parent with DCFS History as a Minor Victim



## Family with an Open Case or Referral 10 Months Prior to the DOB of Deceased Child

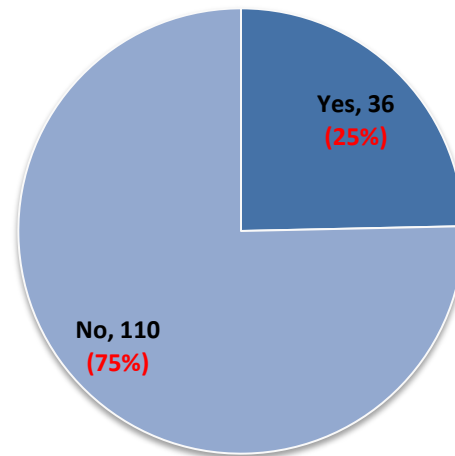
**2011**

**$\Sigma = 167$**



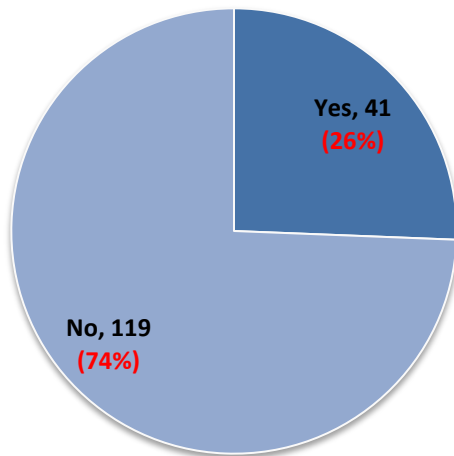
**2012**

**$\Sigma = 146$**



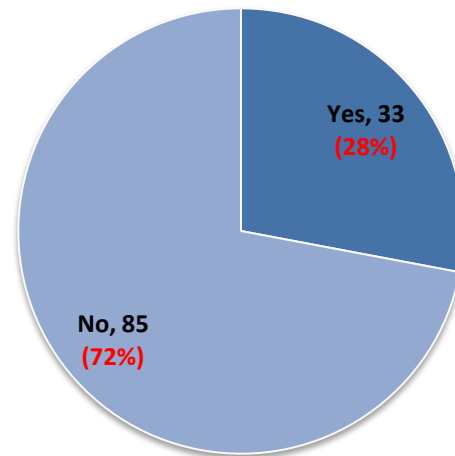
**2013**

**$\Sigma = 160$**



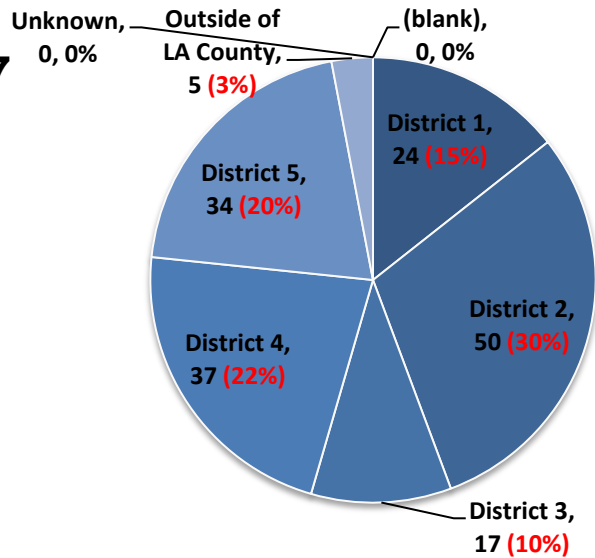
**2014**

**$\Sigma = 118$**

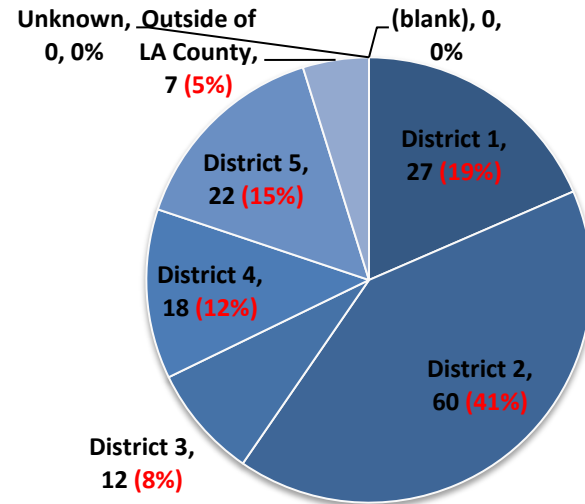


# Supervisory District

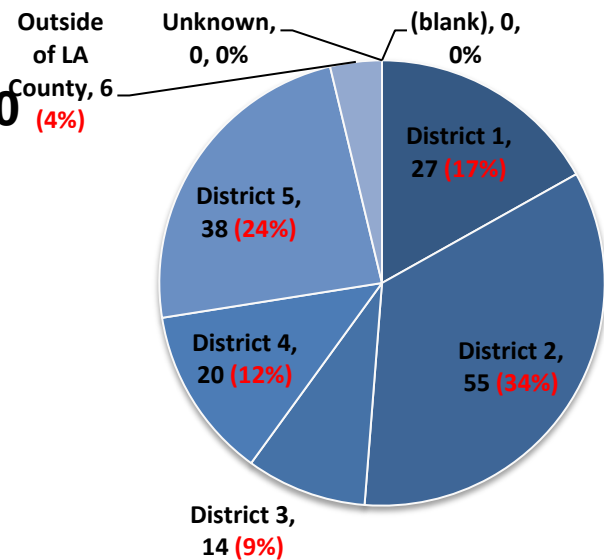
**2011**  
 **$\Sigma = 167$**



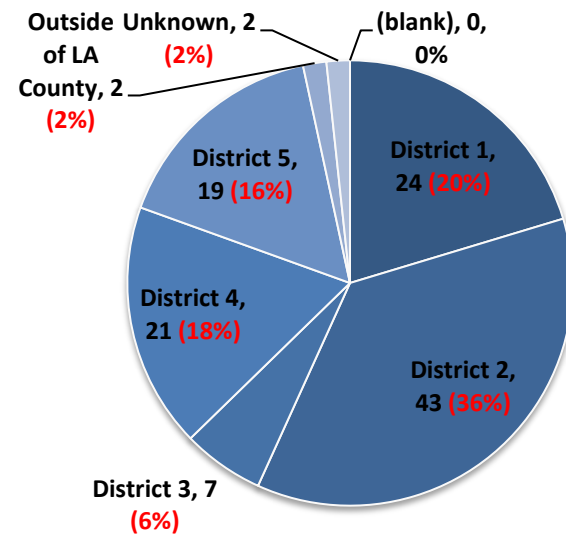
**2012**  
 **$\Sigma = 146$**



**2013**  
 **$\Sigma = 160$**

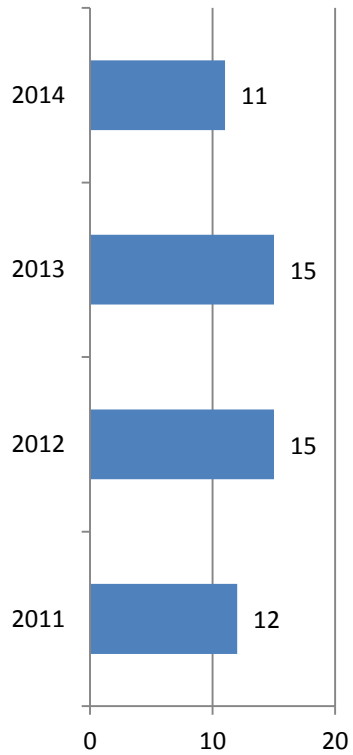


**2014**  
 **$\Sigma = 118$**

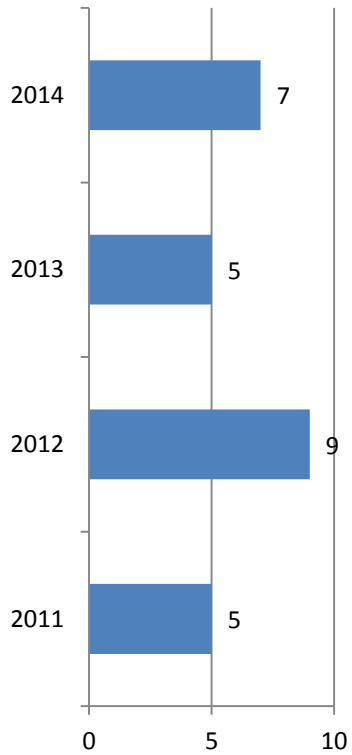


# 1<sup>st</sup> District Prevalent Trends

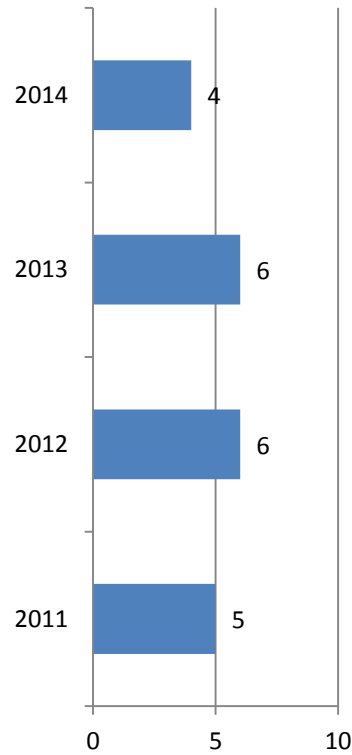
**Medical/Natural**



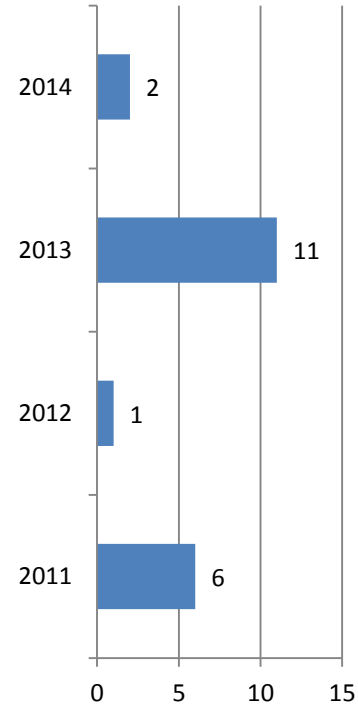
**Stillborn**



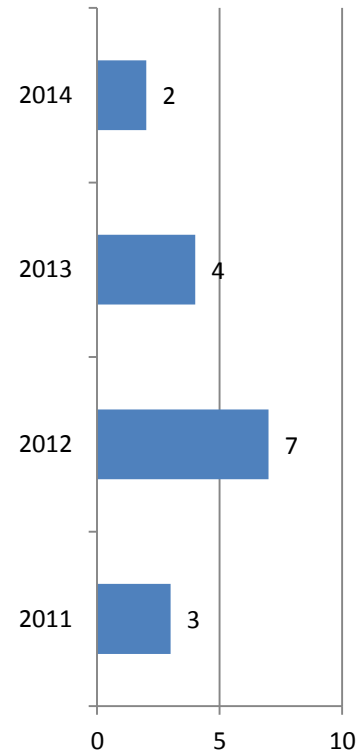
**Vehicular Related**



**Gang Related,  
Shooting**

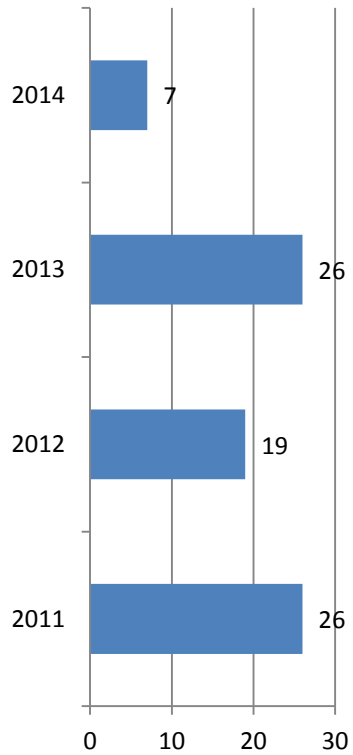


**Co-sleeping**

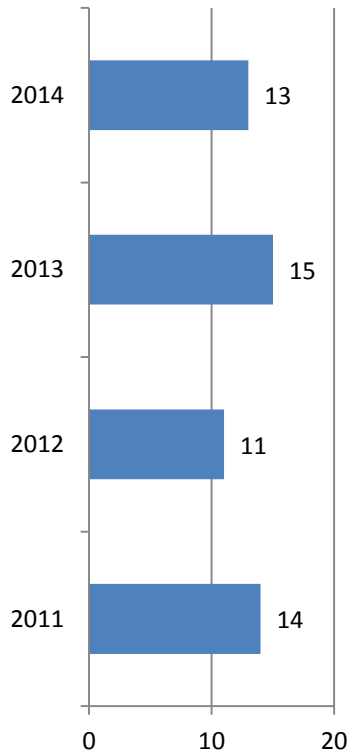


# 2<sup>nd</sup> District Prevalent Trends

**Medical/Natural**



**Stillborn**



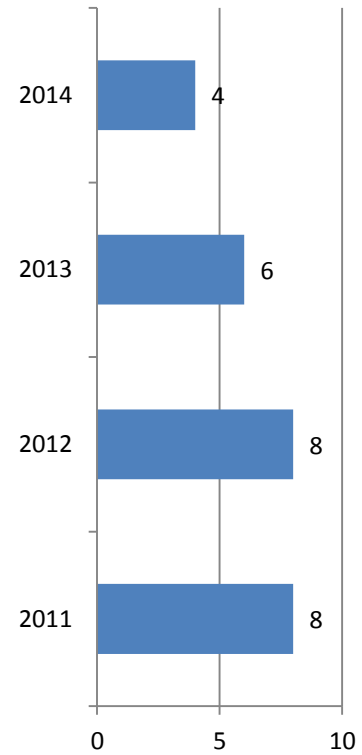
**Gang Related,  
Shooting**



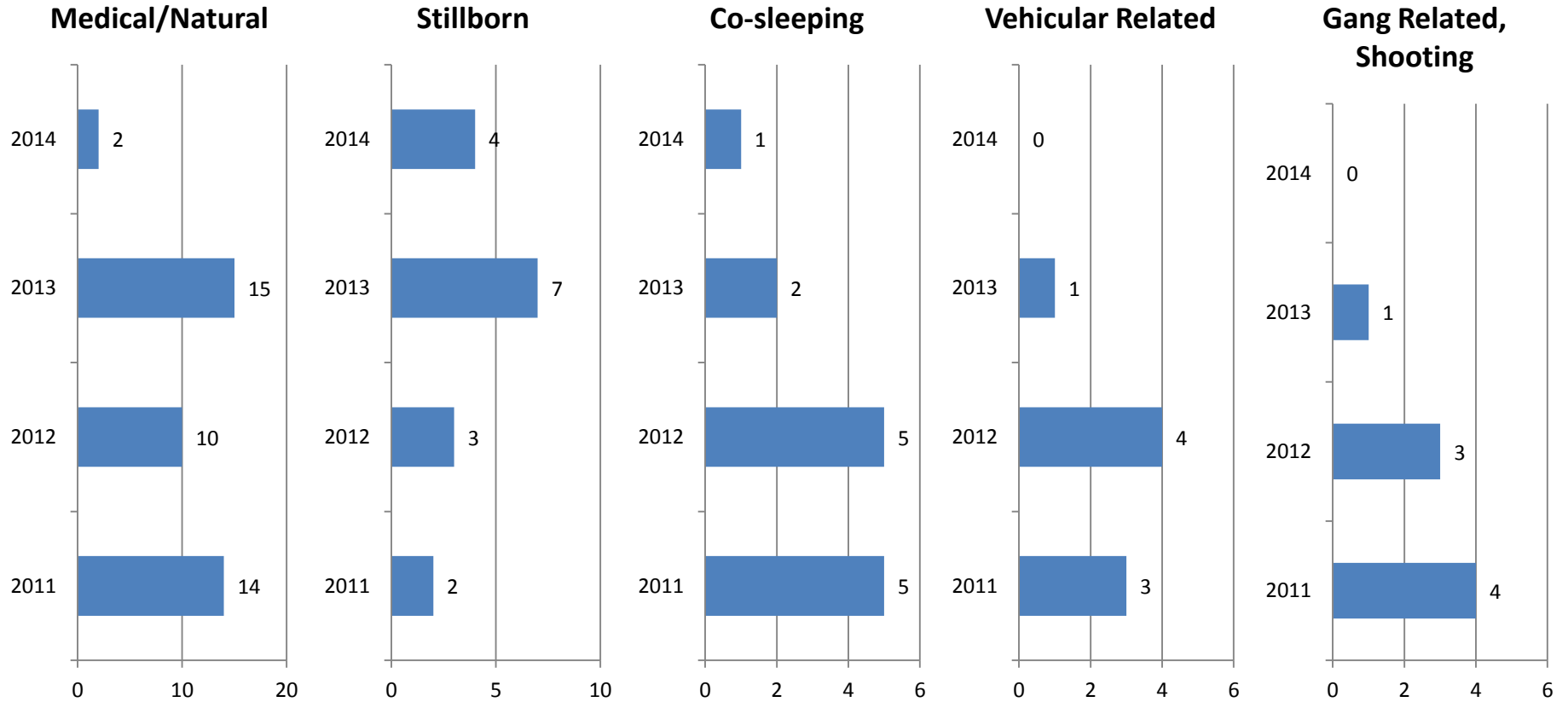
**Co-sleeping**



**Vehicular Related**



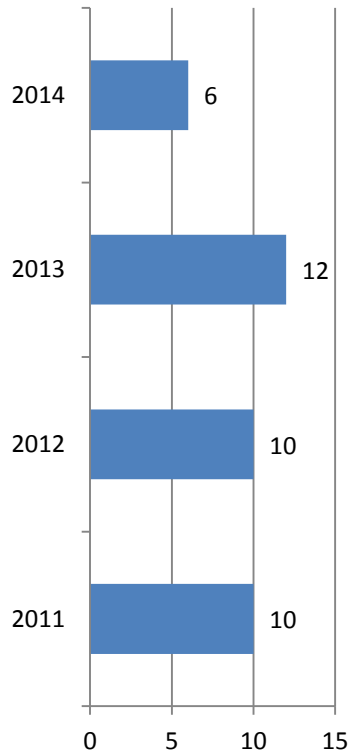
# 3<sup>rd</sup> District Prevalent Trends



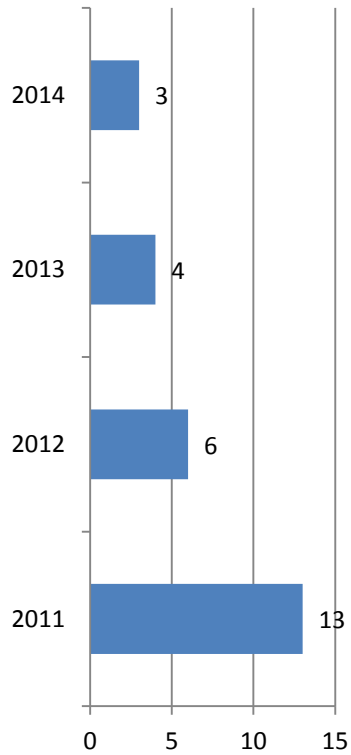


# 4<sup>th</sup> District Prevalent Trends

**Medical/Natural**



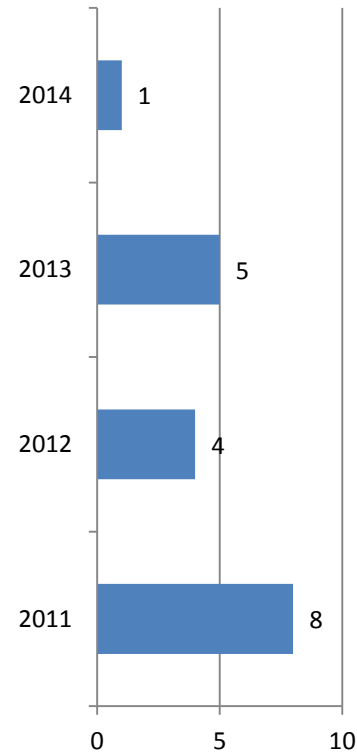
**Co-sleeping**



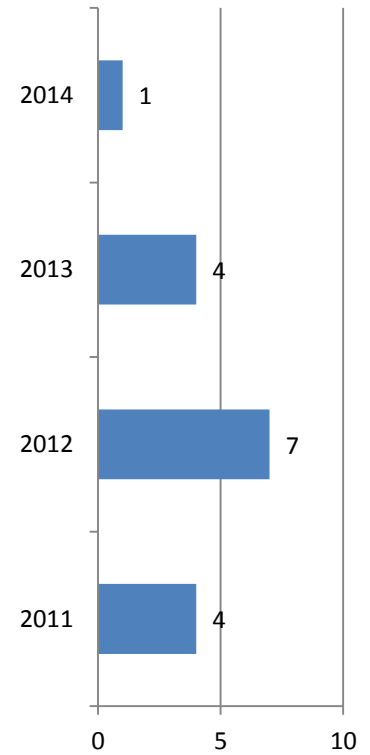
**Stillborn**



**Vehicular Related**

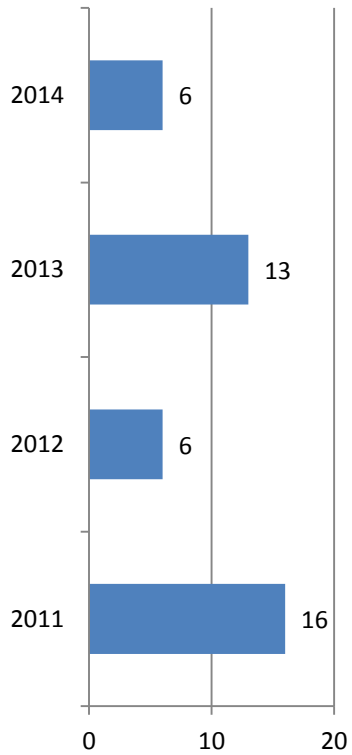


**Accidental Injury**

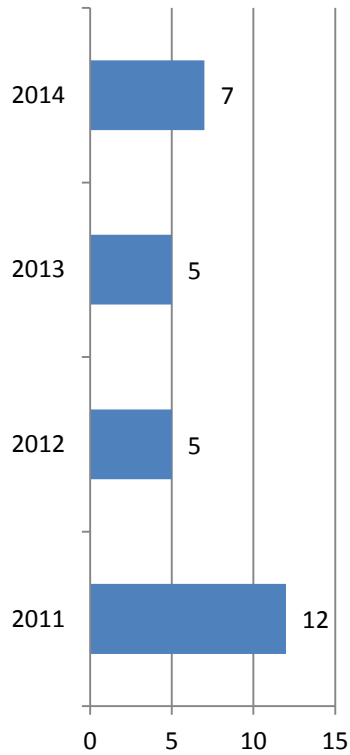


# 5<sup>th</sup> District Prevalent Trends

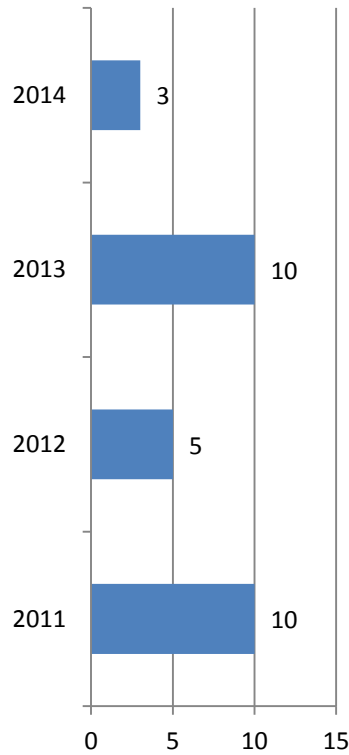
**Medical/Natural**



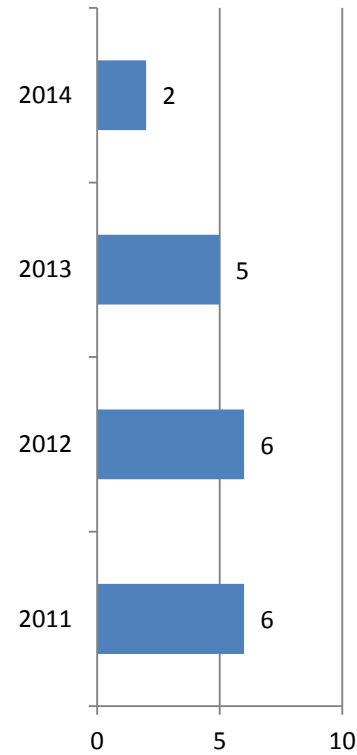
**Vehicular Related**



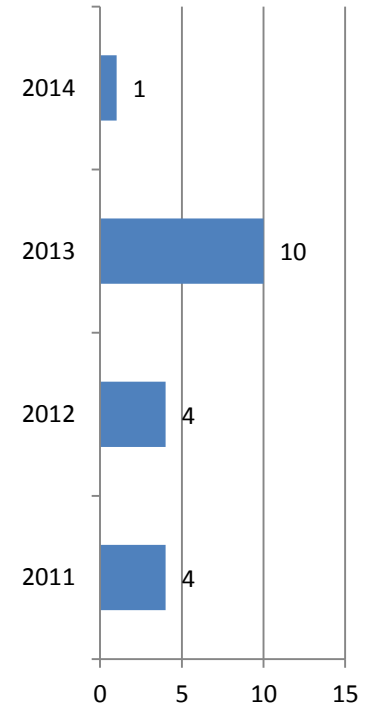
**Stillborn**



**Drowning**



**Unsafe Sleeping Environment**



# Next Steps

- CIFT Enhancements
- Quarterly Data Update on Risk Management Division's website
- Launch Protective Linkages Activities (PAL), an interactive website for CSWs to learn of fatality trends, provides practice tips or activities and links to policy and literature.